

# SEC. 8. LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY OF SERGEANT-AT-ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Sergeant-at-Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate shall have the same law enforcement authority, including the authority to carry firearms, as a member of the Capitol Police. The law enforcement authority under the preceding sentence shall be subject to the requirement that the Sergeant-at-Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate have the qualifications specified in subsection (b).

(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The qualifications referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) A minimum of 5 years of experience as a law enforcement officer before beginning service as the Sergeant-at-Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

(2) Current certification in the use of firearms by the appropriate Federal law enforcement entity or an equivalent non-Federal entity.

(3) Any other firearms qualification required for members of the Capitol Police.

(c) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate shall have authority to prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

## NOTICE OF HEARING

### COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Wednesday, November 4, 2009, at 2:15 p.m. in Room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on Fixing the Federal Acknowledgment Process.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 202-224-2251.

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

### COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 29, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Modernizing Affordable Housing for Seniors and People with Disabilities."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 29, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 29, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Pensions in Peril: Helping Workers Preserve Retirement Security Through a Recession" on October 29, 2009. The hearing will commence at 10 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on October 29, 2009, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### AVIATION OPERATIONS, SAFETY, AND SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold a meeting during the session of the Senate on October 29, 2009, at 10 a.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 29, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, FEDERAL SERVICES, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 29, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, "More Security, Less Waste: What Makes Sense for our Federal Cyber Defense."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 29, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following staff of the Finance Committee and my personal office be allowed floor privileges during consideration of the unemployment insurance bill: Mary Baker, Blaise Cote, Margaret Franklin, Maryum Janjua, Bridget Mallon, and Audrey Schultz.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 477, the nomination of Regina Benjamin to be Surgeon General of the United States; that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order; that any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

### IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Regina M. Benjamin, of Alabama, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be Surgeon General of the Public Health Service for a term of four years.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am happy we are going to have a Surgeon General. We have waited far too long. This is a good woman. She deserved this a long time ago. I appreciate whoever was holding her up allowing us to go forward. It is important for the country. We have a flu pandemic that has been declared. It is an emergency. We have so many other problems. We need this doctor who has devoted her life to taking care of the ill to take care of the entire country.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the nomination of Dr. Regina Benjamin to be Surgeon General. The vetting process for executive nominees is thorough, and Dr. Benjamin has successfully completed that process. Her nomination was approved unanimously by the HELP Committee on October 7 by a voice vote.

The mission of the Surgeon General is to be America's "top doctor," and to act as the chief medical educator and communicator on public health and safety issues. Dr. Benjamin has a distinguished career in providing health care to low-income individuals. We also share an understanding of the unique challenges facing people in rural and underserved areas. I am confident that Dr. Benjamin will be able to articulately inform Americans on matters of health safety.

Dr. Benjamin will become Surgeon General at a key time during the H1N1 pandemic influenza epidemic and subsequent supply shortage of the H1N1 vaccine. I am pleased she